

TITLE: PUNCH HOLDER AND STORAGE TOOL

CROSS REFERENCE TO A RELATED APPLICATION

This application is based upon Applicants' Provisional  
5 Application Serial No. 60/450,442 filed February 26, 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Hammer driven punches or chisels are common tools used  
around machinery or in woodworking. If the punch is held in  
10 one hand and the hammer in the other, even the most  
experienced person will occasionally hit the punch head with  
a glancing blow whereupon the hammer will be deflected and  
strike the holding hand. This is usually a painful and  
sometimes an injurious experience.

15 Also, it is often unhandy for the worker to have a  
plurality of punches of different sizes on his person to  
address the task at hand.

It is therefore a principal object of this invention to  
provide a punch holder and storage tool which can easily  
20 hold the driven punch by one hand at a safe distance from  
the hammer.

A further object of the invention is to provide a punch  
holder and storage tool wherein punches of different sizes  
can be selectively loaded into the tool.

25 A still further object of the invention is to provide a  
punch holder and storage tool which can carry a plurality of  
punches or chisels without interfering with the punch  
driving operation.

These and other objects will be apparent to those  
30 skilled in the art.

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a punch holder that will hold a punch or another tool away from the hand when hammering it with a hammer. The punch holder has an elongated handle with an enclosed compartment that is frusto-shaped with a flat head and tapered side walls that receive the punch. Also within this compartment is a plunger that is slidably within the handle and spring loaded such that the plunger will hold the punch against the frusto-shaped walls of the compartment. The plunger is controlled by a handle that will slide up and down thus permitting a punch to be placed through the compartment. Additionally, the handle of the punch holder can be hollowed to store punches.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of the plunger assembly;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged scale partial sectional view of the tool body; and

Fig. 3 is a partial sectional view similar to that of Fig. 1 with a punch inserted therein.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

With reference to Figs. 1-3, the numeral 10 designates the tool comprised of a cylindrical body 12 with a forward end 14 and a rearward end 16. The forward end has a frusto-shaped compartment 18 having a flat head 20, and tapered side walls 22 to accommodate the hexagonal shape of the shank of a chisel 24.

The body 12 has transverse walls 26 and 28 (Fig. 2). Wall 26 forms the bottom of compartment 18, and the two

walls define a further compartment 30. An elongated slot 31 is formed in one side of compartment 30.

5 A plunger assembly 32 (Fig. 1) comprises an elongated plunger 34 slidably mounted in a center aperture of wall 26 with a forward end 36 extending into compartment 18. A rearward end 38 of reduced diameter extends into compartment 30 and receives one end of compression spring 40. The other end of spring 40 engages threaded plug 42 (Fig. 2) which is used to adjust the compression of spring 40. A handle 44  
10 extends laterally outwardly of compartment 30 through slot 31 (Fig. 2).

A friction cap 46 closes the inner end 16 of body 12 to close storage compartment 48 which can be used to store a plurality of chisels or punches 50.

15 In operation, the handle 44 is pulled rearwardly to permit a punch to be positioned as shown in Fig. 2 within compartment 18. The handle 44 is then released, and spring 40 pushes plunger 34 forwardly so that its forward end 36 engages the punch 50 and binds it against surfaces 20 and  
20 22. With the chisel being held the operator can hold the tool 10 by grasping housing 12, and can use the other hand to strike a hammer on the chisel. The compartment 48 can be used to store a plurality of punches or chisels, with access being via removable cap 46.

25 It is therefore seen that this invention will achieve all of its objectives.